

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEXICAN FONMIN'S UNGA PLENARY REMARKS ON CHILE

IN HIS GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH TO UNGA PLENARY OCT 3,
MEXICAN FONMIN RABASA MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS ON CHILE:

"THE BREATH OF DEATH SWEEPS AMERICA AND THE WORLD AS A
WHOLE. A COLD SPECTRE LOWERS OVER OUR CONTINENT. A CHAMPION
OF DEMOCRACY WHO TRIED TO ACHIEVE THE REDEMPTION OF THE NEEDY
OF HIS COUNTRY HAS DIED.

A FEW DAYS AGO YOU, YOURSELF, MR. PRESIDENT, IN YOUR
INAUGURAL STATEMENT MENTIONED YOUR DEEPLY FELT CONVICTION
THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT OF CHILE WAS:

"... A MAN WHO LOVED HIS PEOPLE AND DEFENDED HIS IDEALS WITH
HIS BLOOD AND HIS LIFE." (2117TH MEETING, P. 17-20)

WE FULLY SHARE THAT ASSESSMENT. IT IS FOR THAT REASON
THAT WE WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF SALVADOR ALLENDE
WHO DIED IN THE DEFENCE OF FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

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THIS ENLIGHTENED HEAD OF STATE WAGED WAR WITHOUT QUARTER TO

ACHIEVE THE DESIRES OF HIS COUNTRY. PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME, A REAL EFFORT WAS MADE TO ACHIEVE PROFOUND STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LIFE OF A NATION HEADING TOWARDS SOCIALISM, WHILST REMAINING WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC, LEGAL AND PEACEFUL WAY OF LIFE. THE ENTIRE WORLD FOLLOWED THAT NEW EXPERIMENT WITH GREAT INTEREST, AND A NUMBER OF NATIONS WITH DEEPLY-ROOTED HOPE. TODAY THAT HOPE HAS PERISHED -- EVEN THOUGH THE FERVOUR AND THE LOVE FOR THE HERO THAT FELL WILL CONTINUE -- EXACTLY AS FIVE YEARS AGO THAT NOBLE EFFORT OF GIVING SOCIALISM A HUMAN VISAGE DIED ALSO.

MY COUNTRY BELIEVES THAT VIOLENCE IS NOT THE ANSWER, NOR IS THE DESTRUCTION OF FREEDOM. THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO HIMSELF PUT IT:

"ANY ACTION ADOPTED AGAINST A FREE PEOPLE DIMINISHES THE TOTAL FREEDOM OF ALL, AND THUS AFFECTS US ALL INEVITABLY."

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AT THIS TRAGIC MOMENT CHILE HAS LOST ITS BEST SONS: PABLO NERUDA IS DEAD. WHEN MY COUNTRY LEARNED OF THE HORRORS IN LA MONEDA WE INVITED THE GREAT POET OF ISLA NEGRA TO RESIDE IN MEXICO AND, PERHAPS, RESTORE HIS PRECARIOUS HEALTH. THE INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED, BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, IT COULD NOT BE COMPLIED WITH.

WE HAVE ALWAYS SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECTED THAT NOBLE INSTITUTION OF LATIN AMERICA, THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM, QUITE INDEPENDENT OF THE IDEOLOGY OR POLITICAL LEANINGS OF THE ONE PERSECUTED. THUS THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO OPENED ITS DOORS TO ALL WHO FELT THEMSELVES SERIOUSLY THREATENED, AND A GOOD NUMBER OF THEM ARE TODAY ON MEXICAN SOIL. WE HOPE THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EXISTING INTER-AMERICAN AGREEMENTS ON THIS QUESTION WILL BE STRICTLY COMPLIED WITH, FOR WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE EYES OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD ARE NOW FOCUSED IN CHILE AND ARE CAREFULLY WATCHING THE EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION.

AS FAR AS THE FOREIGNERS THERE ARE CONCERNED, MANY OF THEM REFUGEES FROM OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES -- WHOSE NUMBER HAS BEEN ASSESSED AT APPROXIMATELY 14,000 -- WE UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE INFORMATION MADE PUBLIC BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDING HIS OWN EFFORTS AND THOSE OF OTHER HIGH INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO ENSURE OFFICIAL SAFEGUARDS AND RESPECT FOR SUCH SAFEGUARDS AS THOSE OFFERED BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF CHILE.

HOWEVER, THE SITUATION PREVAILING IS STILL EXTREMELY GRAVE.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF THE
POLITICAL PRISONERS WHOSE LIVES AND FREEDOM MAKE IT
ADVISABLE THAT, IN THIS SPECIFIC CASE AND WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ALERT AND VIGILANT."
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